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2015 YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

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MA Nursing Classes Being Restructured

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

Due to the ongoing budget concerns at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, schools and departments have been forced to cut faculty, dissolve programs, and otherwise get creative with courses to make them more financially efficient. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program students found this out the hard way when they met with the College of Nursing Dean Dr. Susan Dean-Baar and Associate Dean Dr. Roberta Lavin on April 27 at 1 p.m. to discuss the changes occurring in their program.

Dr. Dean-Baar and Dr. Lavin started the meeting by confirming what the MSN students had previously only heard through hearsay and rumors: the MSN program is being phased out and its students are going to be placed in mixed classes with Bachelor of Science

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UMSL Student Uncovers Underlying Issues Related to Student Hunger on Campus

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER
JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER



Laura Miller presents her research about student hunger at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 29
LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

When a fellow single mother asked University of Missouri—St. Louis student Laura Miller, senior, philosophy, if she knew of a place that she could use her Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to buy food on campus, she did not know, but she became determined to find out. That search started over a year and a half ago, but it would prove to be a question that, according to Miller, “led me down this path that led me to all of these discoveries”—discoveries that would shock and frustrate her into tackling issues of state benefits and student hunger.

Miller began her search by asking faculty, her honors societies, and even Chancellor Thomas George, all of whom did not know how or where to use state food assistance on campus. Over the next few months, Miller attended meetings with Assistant Dean of Students Miriam Rocca, UMSL social

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College of Nursing to Restructure MA Classes

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

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in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN to DNP) program students.

The switch from the MSN to the BSN to DNP program has been anticipated for some time. Nursing programs across the country have been encouraged to switch over to doctorate programs for over 10 years. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) has supported this switch since 2002, and in 2004 the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) issued a statement calling for all colleges of nursing to

make this transition by 2015. UMSL has lagged behind the AACN's recommendations. Dr. Dean-Baar put this timeline in perspective with other nursing colleges, saying, "Mizzou has already done it...UMKC is very close...we are not at the front of the train on this one. We're in about the middle of the train."

Dr. Lavin said, "Our goal was to do what the consensus of the nursing community and the accrediting body and the national organization of nurse practitioner faculty said we should do and make the move...In the meantime, we were committed to closing out our master's degree program and...[having] people finish

their programs of study. In the process of doing this, there's always this period of time of a year or two where there's going to be some overlap between the two programs."

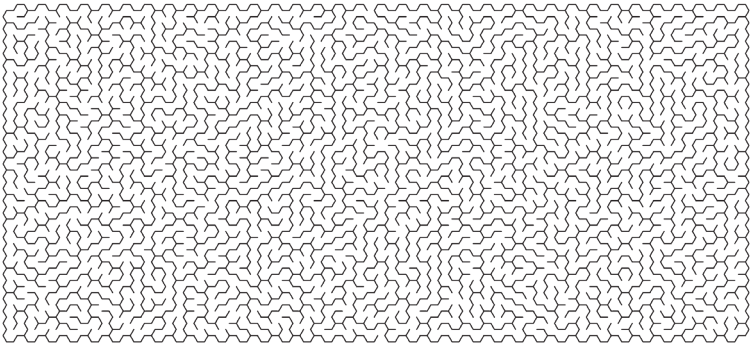
Unfortunately for the MSN students, this blending of the programs involves some unexpected changes in the structure of the classes. Some of the classes that the MSN students expected to be in-person are now going to be taught online. Dr. Dean-Baar said, "We are having to look at efficiency of classes, and in some cases, we are not offering two sections of a face-to-face [but] offering one section of a face-to-face and one section of an online [course], and in

some cases we may have to go entirely online." The nursing students were frustrated by this announcement. They were particularly upset with the proposal that diagnosis and management classes would be moved online. Dr. Dean-Baar indicated that some of the nursing students had quietly expressed to the deans that they would not mind making the switch to online. This opinion was clearly unpopular among the students at the April 27 meeting, however. One of the students said, "I think our concern is, we don't care where we're at on the train, it's how it was all gone about...When we signed

Continued on Page 4

GAME CORNER

Difficulty:
Non-Stop Fiesta Dog



					3			4
		5	8			1		2
	8	4		2				7
			4		1		6	
4			6		9			8
	3		5		2			
8				6		7	1	
6		1			8	2		
5			9					

The UMSL MATH CLUB
Presents Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, May 6. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel at Express Scripts Hall 329 (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

A mysterious number called "b"
We add to eighty and three
Then divide all by seven
To get "b" times eleven
Whatever might "b" be?

8			7	2				
2	9	6			4			
4		3						
6	1		9		3	4		
		7				6		
		2	6		8		7	1
						2		7
			4			8	5	6
				6	7			3



HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- Get even More News and Content online at thecurrent-online.com
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- Volunteer, Intern, or Work for the Paper
- Be Featured or Feature an Undercurrent
- Like us on Fb /TheCurrentStudentNews
- Follow us on Twitter @UMSLTheCurrent

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THU 70
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FRI 76
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SAT 83
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SUN 83
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SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

The following is a series of daily crime reports issued by the University of Missouri—St. Louis Police Department since April 20.

April 20: Two vehicles were involved in an auto accident in Lot NN at 11:32 a.m.; there were no reported injuries and only minor damage to the vehicles. At 7 p.m., an ex-student was arrested for trespassing and released to the custody of the St. Peters PD. The arrested former student had additional outstanding warrants and had been previously warned about trespassing.

April 21: At 9:09 a.m., a video camera was stolen from the Des Lee Technology Center. There were two instances of found property: a wallet was found in Clark Hall at 3 p.m. and a cell phone was found inside the Social Sciences & Business Building at 8:45 p.m.; both items were turned in to UMSL PD for safekeeping and, when possible, the owner of the item was notified. A student-involved injury during an exercise class at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center from April 18 was reported during the day to UMSL PD.

April 22: UMSL PD responded to an altercation between a student and their boyfriend in Mansion Hill at 12:19 p.m. The student's minor injuries were treated and one person was arrested and released by police. At 12:30 p.m., a student reported losing a personal document, location unknown. At 1:45 p.m., a low water pressure alert at the Thomas Jefferson Library caused a fire alarm to sound, prompting evacuation by all in the building. UMSL PD eventually gave the all clear and allowed patrons and employees to return inside the library.

April 23: At 12:17 a.m., UMSL PD responded to an elevator call from Villa North from a student who was trapped in the stalled elevator. The elevator was later put temporarily out of service. At 10:52 a.m., an incident at the Millennium Student Center loading dock involving a personal vehicle and a Sodexo truck ended in a minor auto accident with no reported injuries.

April 25: At 2:30 p.m., a student reported that their parked car had been struck by an unknown vehicle in the Millennium South parking garage. It was reportedly damaged between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. At 9:10 p.m. in Lot E, a staff member was transported to

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UMSL Student Uncovers Underlying Issues Related to Student Hunger on Campus

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER
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worker Robin Kimberlin, and representatives of Sodexo, UMSL's food service provider. Her initial discovery at those meetings was that EBT and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, are not accepted at any of UMSL's dining venues. Despite her disappointment, she continued to broker meetings with Sodexo trying to figure out how to make that a possibility.

Miller had the idea that the Tri-

ton Store was akin to a gas station and therefore might be able to become certified to accept EBT/SNAP benefits. However, she was informed that the Triton Store does not sell items that satisfy all of the food groups needed to be certified. In order to be certified to accept EBT/SNAP benefits, a store must sell items from at least three of the four major food groups: breads/cereals, fruits/vegetables, meat/fish/poultry, and dairy products. Miller, thinking that the Triton Store could add a few items to meet that requirement, set up another meeting with Sodexo to discuss the possibility. According to Miller, when she asked if Sodexo could add a small jug of milk to the items they sold to meet

the dairy requirement, "They said, 'We prefer you don't'."

At that point, Miller began asking why Sodexo has the power to stop EBT/SNAP from being used on campus. She eventually found out Sodexo's food service provider contract controls all food sold on campus and strictly limits students, faculty, or staff from bringing non-Sodexo food onto UMSL's campus. Though she was denied access to actually seeing the contract, she was told that it stipulates that people must have a food permit or meet certain religious requirements if they want to bring outside food onto campus. Even food collected for food drives must

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NEWS BRIEFS

Dr. Sally Ebest Receives President's Award for Service

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Chancellor Thomas George presented Sally Ebest, professor of English and Director of Gender Studies, with a University of Missouri System award on April 28. The President's Award for Service is the seventh of the eight awards presented to faculty in 2016. The \$5,000 award recognizes a faculty member for their service and contributions to achieve the university's goals.

"I was surprised—dumbfounded, really—to receive the award. I have always loved working with grad students, so this award was particularly meaningful, especially given the level of competition at the system level," said Ebest.

Dr. Ebest came to the University

of Missouri—St. Louis in 1987 and became the Director of Gender Studies in 2010. She has also been the author of many books. One book's royalties, "Writing from A to Z," provides funding for students to attend national conferences.

Ebest is engaged with committees nationally and at UMSL. She serves on the Mentoring Committee of the National Women's Studies Association and as an advisory board member to the Center for Teaching and Learning. Ebest also created the Certificate in University Teaching for graduate students in all disciplines to develop teaching skills they can apply in their classrooms.



COURTESY OF SALLY EBEST

In June, Ebest will be formally recognized by UM System Interim President Michael Middleton at an awards ceremony.

Leadership Awards Honor UMSL Community

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2016 Leadership Awards on April 25 honored the exemplary efforts of University of Missouri—St. Louis individuals and organizations. The awards were divided up into two separate categories: individual awards and organization and program awards. The following is the list of award recipients:

Vice Provost Award

Dr. Benda McPhail

Newman Civic Fellows Award

Daniel Mueller

SGA Student Choice Award

Alan Byrd

Triton Athletic Leadership Awards

Kevin Smith & Alex Stupek

Best Overall Program

Walls of Intolerance, PRIZM

Organization of the Year

Associated Black Collegians

Best Cultural Awareness Program

"Am I Too African to Be American Documentary and Discussion," Associated Black Collegians

Fraternity & Sorority Life Student Member of the Year

Samantha Risius

Rising Leader of the Year

Thomas Poon

Advisor of the Year

Ann Torrusio

Student Advocate Award

Kaitlin Henning

Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Programming Award

Briana Robertson

Student Life Award

Laura Holt

Legendary Triton Award

Jill Delston

Best Community Building Program

Study Break Weekend, Associated Black Collegians

Most Innovative Program

Walls of Intolerance, PRIZM

Best Sustained Program

Undergraduate Research Symposium, Golden Key International Honour Society

Student Leader of the Year

Eric'el Johnson

Outstanding Service to the Community

Kaitlin Henning



Attendees enjoying music, food, and friends before the awards ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

UMSL Student Uncovers Underlying Issues Related to Student Hunger on Campus

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER
JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

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leave UMSL's campus before it can be distributed; doing otherwise would be a violation of Sodexo's contract. Miller found this inability to actually see the contract frustrating, saying, "If you prevent somebody from seeing the contract that they're governed by, you can tell them any rules are in it and they'll never know the difference."

Miller then broadened her research to investigate exactly how large the student hunger problem on campus really was. Her research found that 50 percent of all UMSL students qualify for a need-based federal Pell Grant. She also found that 52 percent of students who did not re-enroll in classes during the 2015 school year did not do so due to financial issues. Based on this, she concluded that it is likely that at least half of UMSL's campus may face food insecurity.

Miller believes that UMSL's response to such an overwhelming problem has largely been ineffectual. Mirthweek's Add-A-Dollar campaign, in which students could add one dollar to their dining purchases to aid UMSL students facing food insecurity, sounded like a good idea. However, Miller finds the program unsettling. She discovered that the money raised by the campaign will be converted to Sodexo dining dollars, and that to obtain some of that fund, students would have to go to the social worker and essentially beg for an unspecified amount from the fund. Miller believes that the program is ethically problematic because, she said, "[UMSL] has now made the poor an income stream for Sodexo on campus knowing that they're one of the hindrances to state benefits and we gave it to them. And we ask students, half of which are struggling, to fund it. So the very students that are hurt by the lack of EBT are the ones funding the program for the company that's preventing EBT."

While Miller continues to fight for EBT/SNAP use on campus, she is in the process of opening MOSAIC, a food access point where UMSL students facing food insecurity can pick up a snack between classes or food to bring home. Because of the rules governing food drives on campus, she approached the Normandy United Methodist Church across the street from campus. They agreed that Miller could use a space in the basement for MOSAIC. Miller said, "It's going to be a food pantry, but it's also going to be a place to stop in and get a snack while you're between classes so that way you don't have to go hungry on campus and I'm not giving you a can of potatoes that you can't cook." Miller said, "It's going to be help between classes, to eat while

you're trying to study." Students will not have to explain their circumstances to utilize MOSAIC; they can come in, pick up some food, no questions asked. Her target date for opening MOSAIC is August 3.

In the meantime, Miller presented

her findings about student hunger and Sodexo at the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) on April 29. She hopes that through the URS and through spreading the word about MOSAIC, she can increase awareness about the student hunger problem and the

need to rework Sodexo's monopoly of on-campus food. "Maybe we can help some students stay enrolled. Or give them hope that the campus doesn't just see them as tuition, and sees them as persons with challenges that are struggling to be here," said Miller.

Additional Reporting by Lori Dresner

Wellness Doesn't End With the Semester

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It seems that with summer comes an increased awareness for leading a healthier lifestyle. Students, faculty, and staff have resources available to them all year round to promote that desire.

The Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services at the University of Missouri—St. Louis provides several services to help individuals achieve their goals. Nancy Magnuson, assistant vice provost of student affairs, health, wellness and counseling, explained a variety of activities and resources available through the office. Dr. Magnuson said, "In Health, Wellness, Counseling, and Disability Access Services, we believe that students who make healthy choices perform better academically."

Kathy Castulik, health educator of the Health, Wellness, and Counseling Services, led some of these events this semester: Healthy Choices when choosing meals and snacks, Walking Tritons program in collaboration with the Recreation and Wellness Center, free rapid HIV testing along with Sexually Transmitted Infection Awareness, and smoking cessation.

Dr. Laura Holt, psychologist and outreach coordinator of the Health,

Wellness, and Counseling Services described some of the programs provided to students. Dr. Holt said, "We provide Train Your Brain workshops that teach skills in mindfulness, distress tolerance, assertive communication, and emotion management throughout each semester. Each month we feature a different focus on our social media and campus outreach efforts; past topics have included anxiety, depression, body positivity, and healthy relationships and sex. And, of course, we provide consultation, crisis, and low-cost individual counseling services."

The office has a new website at umsl.edu/services/counselor/resources/index.html to provide students with a variety of resources from self-help books and apps to mental health resources. There is even a virtual relaxation room.

The Punch Out! Finals Stress event will be in front of the radio station in the Millennium Student Center from 12 to 2 p.m. each afternoon Monday through Thursday next week, serving cold punch, making stress balls, coloring, and providing tips to reduce test anxiety and stress during finals week. Dr. Holt said, "We did a similar event during Fall 2015 finals and talked to an incredible 2,537 students, so we're hoping to beat that!"

To keep up with events on campus, follow the office on [facebook.com/UMSLCounseling](https://www.facebook.com/UMSLCounseling) or on their twitter @UMSLCounseling.

For faculty and staff wanting to start making healthier lifestyle choices, the University of Missouri System has a wellness program.

The UM System created the T. E. Atkins Wellness Program in 2007 after the curator went through a cardiac rehab program. Dr. Lynn Rossy, health psychologist for the UM System, explained that Atkins made a donation to launch the program that was followed by extensive surveys to determine the needs of the workforce. Staff, including herself, were then hired to administer the program.

Dr. Rossy said, "We try to help people be more active, eat better, and have a better work-life balance." Dr. Rossy explained that the wellness program is comprised of five focused areas: be active, eat well, work-life fit, work healthy, and empower and appreciate. Each area is a helpful toolkit for visitors to the wellness program website. The five areas contain discounts, coupons, local activities, and more.

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thecurrent-online.com

College of Nursing to Restructure MA Classes

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

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Megan M., graduate, nursing, said, "We all feel blindsided...if this is something that you guys have been discussing for years, we feel a little bait-and-switch because we were admitted under a face-to-face program and here...a month before our finals we're being told that we're going online?"

Dr. Dean-Baar told the MSN students that the decision to move online was necessary in light of the recent budget crisis. She said, "You all may know that we are under some significant financial pressures on this campus...Everything you've read about the situation that UMSL is facing is absolutely true...The reality is—you're all nurses, you know how this goes in health care—we are all being asked to be far more efficient, so what we have had to look at in some cases is whether we can afford to offer two courses when we are going to have five students in

each course, or do you have to combine them into one section?" The student nurses were unimpressed by this reason, however, as several of them murmured, "That's not my problem," and similar statements.

Other students expressed the concern that the online classes would have additional campus fees that would make their courses hundreds of dollars more expensive. One student asked, "Are we going to be grandfathered in and not paying those course fees for online that are \$70 a credit hour?" Dr. Dean-Baar said that because those online fees are applied by the campus as opposed to the nursing program, the best that she could do would be to request that the campus waive those fee differences for the MSN students.

The fact that several of the veteran professors would soon be leaving gave the student nurses additional worries about the quality of the proposed new blended program. One student said, "I know that...a lot of the veteran teachers or professors are leaving at the end of

this summer, so how are we supposed to move forward in our programs...do you have replacements? Do you have a plan?" Another student suggested that because the leaving professors have a better understanding of the current curriculum, it would be better to convince the veteran teachers to stay and see the last MSN students through the changes. While the deans would not discuss the situations of specific personnel, Dr. Dean-Baar wanted to assure the nurses that "you will not be negatively affected. We have quality instructors lined up. You will be in good hands." She also said that the faculty that are leaving have agreed to train their replacements to assure continuity in the way the program is taught.

Despite these assurances, many of the MSN students still feel disappointed. Melissa Mitchell, graduate, nursing, said, "There are many programs in the St. Louis area that have online-only programs. You could pick those out of a hat. I chose to go to UMSL because it was different than those."

Mirthweek Celebrates End of the Academic Year

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

If April showers bring May flowers, then the University of Missouri—St. Louis can look forward to a lot of May flowers given the rainy week the region has had. Fortunately, the rain could not stop the annual Mirthday Carnival, held to ease the stress of finals and celebrate the end of the semester.

This year, due to rain, the carnival games were moved to the Century Rooms in the Millennium Student Center on April 27. The grey day could not dampen the spirits of Tritons ready for one last hoorah before finals.

Tables stood around the room holding everything from snow cones and popcorn to free Coca-Cola products. Others offered games, prizes, and even a chance to touch live reptiles.

The Coke table included cans of classic Coke, Diet Coke, and Zico coconut water in both regular and chocolate flavors, as well as white knit caps with the Coke label on the front, all for free.

Lines ran long for the caricature artist and a large group gathered for the Reptile Experience. There were several reptiles available to see and touch including a small alligator and a, frankly frighteningly, large snake.

Despite the small space, the campus Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) set up a bean bag toss and a washers game that guests could take part in at their leisure. To the far right was a game of Pick the Duck. A small inflatable pool was set on a table and little rubber ducks floated inside. Guests picked up the ducks and, if the duck was specially marked, they won a large stuffed animal. Those who chose unmarked ducks were still rewarded with Swedish Fish candy.

The left hand side of the room boasted a chance to throw a pie into the face of important campus personnel. Cameron Roark, senior, criminology and criminal justice, and current president of the Student Government Association, was covered in cream pie and awaiting his next tormentor.

The University Program Board (UPB) had a Toilet Toss where guests could toss duck-tape covered rolls of toilet paper into fake toilets. If they made it in, they won a UPB tumbler.

Despite the rain on Wednesday, the rides in front of the RWC ran on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many came out to celebrate the suddenly clear weather and the funnel cakes available on-site. Along with the funnel cakes, the carnival boasted the classic Scrambler, the terrifying Skymaster, and the dizzying Tornado.

Overall, despite the inclement weather and delayed rides, students enjoyed the 2016 Mirthday Carnival. Delores Eddington, senior, studio art, said “I liked all the booths, like usual, but I think everybody comes out for the funnel cake.” Chareba Johnson, senior,



Mirthweek festivities were moved indoors to the MSC Century Rooms on Wednesday due to weather

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

theater and dance, said, “It was fun. This is my senior year. This is the last one I’ll be at.” Iriah Wilkerson, senior, business administration, said, “I just threw up...on my first ride, so I’m out like a little kid” but she made it clear that she was having fun anyway.

Mirthweek in its entirety included

the Leadership Awards Banquet on Monday, Last Lecture featuring Dr. Anthony Mannino on Tuesday, a volunteer fair on Wednesday and Thursday, the carnival on Wednesday, Roller Skating Night on Thursday, a Parks & Recreation marathon on Friday, the Goose Chase Mirthweek 5K and a comedy

show featuring Bo Burnham and Nick Offerman on Saturday, and finally, the Mirth Barbecue at University Meadows on May 1. Although there was some trouble in communicating the changes to students, Mirthweek was a success.

UMSL Alumnus Speaks about Service, LGBT History, and His Time at UMSL

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite the many jokes that University of Missouri — St. Louis students are fond of making, an UMSL degree can actually help you accomplish many things. Just ask Steven Louis Brawley, author, activist, and alum of *The Current* and of UMSL. His long list of accomplishments includes founder of the St. Louis LGBT History Project, winner of the Pride St. Louis Jim Hoefer Community Leadership Award, author of a new book from Arcadia Publishing entitled “Images of America: Gay and Lesbian St. Louis,” and editor-in-chief of *The Current Student Newspaper* from 1986-1987. We caught up with him this week and asked this successful alum some of our burning questions.

The Current (TC): You’re a founder of the St. Louis LGBT History Project. What interested you about St. Louis history in particular?

Steven L. Brawley (SB): I have been a history buff since childhood, I was torn between becoming a history or communications major at UMSL. I have always felt St. Louis has gotten the short end of history by very often being perceived as a “fly over/rust belt” city that has seen better days. St. Louis often gets lost in talking about the World’s Fair but ignores people and events that help minimize our vast contributions. St. Louis’ lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender community is an example of this lost history. I founded the St. Louis LGBT History Project in 2007 to capture these stories. No book had ever been written about the region’s LGBT history. I did not seek to be the first, it just happened. I am proud to use my training at UMSL and *The Current* to help prepare the book. Working on the book reminded me of my deadline days at the old “Blue Metal Building” on campus where our offices were located. (North Campus Metro Link Station).

TC: Would you say that your time at UMSL and with *The Current* has helped you in your professional life? How?

SB: My time at UMSL and *The Current* taught me real life lessons such as discipline, deadlines, work ethic, thoroughness, timeliness, and professionalism. As editor of *The Current* in 1986-87, I was juggling a full course load and more than one part time job. I would often operate on minimal sleep and burn the midnight oil putting out the weekly paper. It was crazy, but it prepared me for the real world. When I stepped into my first professional PR job the next year, I hit the ground running based upon my UMSL preparation. I would not trade my UMSL experience for anything. Later, when I went to Saint Louis University for my master’s, I was equally on task to succeed. I have worked in the not-for-profit community in St. Louis since 1987

and have run into fellow UMSL alumni who share my passion and conviction for UMSL and the foundation it has given thousands of St. Louisans.

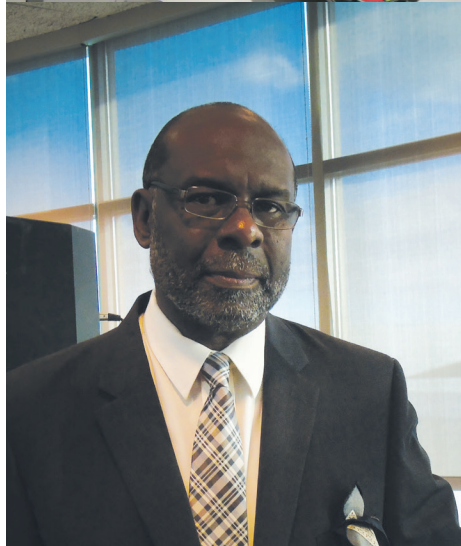
TC: What was the hardest part about writing your book? Which part was the most fun?

SB: The hardest part about the book was it was the first to fully address the topic. There are numerous news articles and sources, but I was starting from scratch. Having to cull down and edit the thousands of images I had to work with was tough. Some really great images did not make the cut, so that was sad. But in the end, the book gives a broad overview of St. Louis’ vibrant LGBT past. Immediately after I sent the book to the publisher, new information and pictures came to light that I thought would have been great to add. So, watch for more books and articles in the future. History is always a work in progress. New information is added every day.

The most fun part about putting the book together was that it celebrated people’s lives. The images in the book not only marked LGBT milestones, it celebrated everyday events - baby christenings, barbecues, picnics, float trips, weddings, dances, sports teams. It shows that LGBT life mirrors straight counterparts in ways that are more similar than different.

2015

August 29
"Nervous Laughter" Opens at
Gallery 210



October 1
Benard Diggs Honored
for 42 years at UMSL.



November 13
Prof Eamonn Wall Recounts
Paris Attacks



February 12
'Soul'd Out' Features
African-American Artists



UMSL men's roller hockey
ranked 5th in the nation in
2016

August
RWC Opens



November 6, 7
Transgender Spectrum
Conference at J. C. Penny



November 13
Students Bridge
Racial Divisions



April 18
UMSL's Dance Program to be Eliminated



April 13
The Current Celebrates 1500
Issues and 50 Years



September 11
Arianna String Quartet
Performs "Essential Arianna"



October 29
Anheuser-Busch Hall Breaks Ground



November
Gallery Visio Opens
"From the Spectrum"

October 2, 3
Triton women's tennis wins
three out of four tournaments



November 13
Women's soccer ends season
with an 8 game winstreak



February 19
SGA Open Forum on UMSL Budget Deficit



March 14
Dr. Brenda Brueggemann Discuss Disability Studies



April 24
Men's Golf Wins Two Years in
a Row at GLVC Championship



April 22, 23
UMSL Jazz Ensemble, STL Jazz
Festival at Touhill

2016

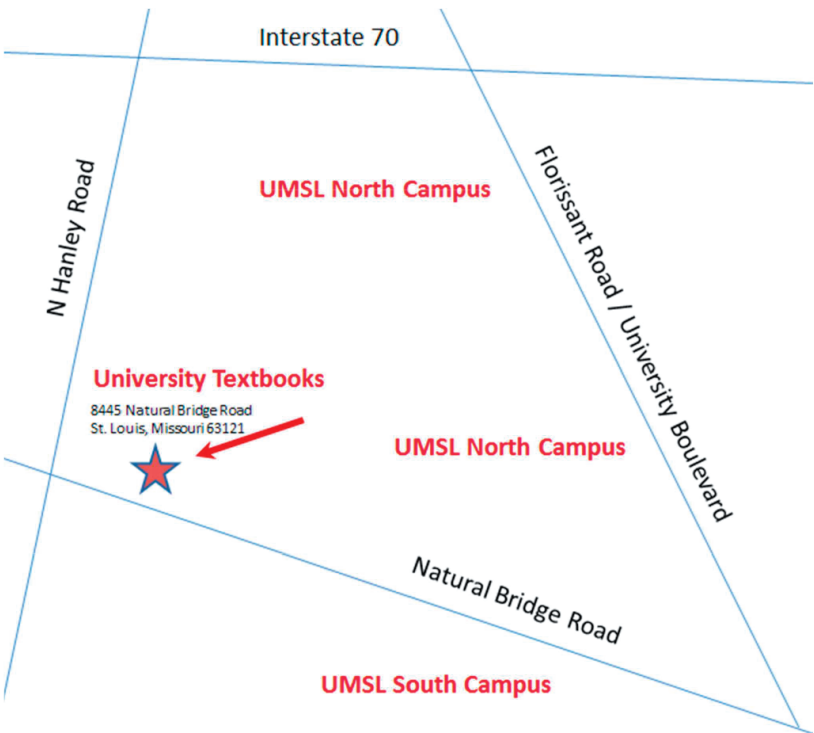
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A banner for Go-Op Gaming. It features a blue background with three cartoon characters: a man with a beard and a blue hat, a woman with long black hair, and a man with orange hair. The text "GO-OP GAMING" is in a pixelated font. At the bottom, the text "/gooperativegaming" is in a large, stylized font. Logos for YouTube and Twitch are in the top corners.



'Be Grateful' performed by Michelle Hughes, Lalitha Jilakara, Elizabeth Moushey, Charis Railey, and Robbie Wade

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

UMSL Dance Department's 'Last Farewell' at Touhill

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Dance Department held their final performance at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 30. The performance, titled “The Last Farewell,” was a free show that commemorated the achievements of UMSL’s dance department, which will be eliminated next year due to budget cuts. As Ronderrick Mitchell, dance program coordinator, expressed later in

the evening, the varied performances incorporated culture and storytelling.

The first piece was called “Pari Pahi Ganaadhipa” and featured music of the same title. It was described as an “invocatory piece of Lord Ganesha,” the elephant-faced god of Hinduism. The piece spotlighted a single dancer on the stage, gliding across one corner of the stage to the other.

The second piece, “The Way of the Elders,” was set to a track titled “Haiti Vodou,” which incorporated pounding drums and spoken chants, and fea-

tured Charis Railey, senior, theatre and dance, and Robbie Wade, sophomore, anthropology. The dancers were clad in long white dresses, which they made exquisite use of during their twirling performance. The two dancers intricately interacted with each other; Railey seemed to possess Wade, who rhythmically convulsed to the increasing tempo. Though it starts as something very different, the two dancers’ performances synchronize at the conclusion.

“Black PTSD” was a performance set to a version of “Strange Fruit” and

featured Anthony Marr Jr., senior, theatre and dance. Marr, clad in orange pants and evoking a prison uniform, began by rhythmically tapping his bare feet. The performance quickly gained momentum when Marr ran around the stage and enacted a violent lynching death; the music incorporated civil rights activists’ speeches and news clips citing lynching statistics and the recent death of Eric Garner. The performance ended with Marr giving a spoken word performance in which he repeated,

Continued on Page 12

‘Gay and Lesbian St. Louis’ Explores Local Queer History

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

It is hard not to recognize the sepia-soaked covers of the “Images of America” book series published by Arcadia Publishing, whether at the library or at the local bookstore. St. Louis, with its rich regional history, is a favorite of the popular long-running series, and many books have been written that focus on part of Mound City’s long, eclectic past, either by looking at a specific region, sub-group, or major event. In the case of the newest entry in the “Images” series, it is the LGBT community that is getting the specialized treatment, this time by an author who is well known to long graduated readers of *The Current*.

“Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” is written, curated, and created by Steven Louis Brawley and the St. Louis LGBT History Project. Brawley, who is a local historian that specializes in LGBT-related subjects, is also an alumnus of the University of Missouri—St. Louis; from 1986 to 1987, he served as editor in chief of *The Current Student Newspaper*.

The thin volume of LGBT history in St. Louis—its page count clocks in at barely over one hundred pages—is a queer ethnography of an entire city, told in photographs. The book is divided into five distinct sections: pioneers; places; milestones; groups; everyday life. The pioneers are the pioneering local



Steven Brawley

COURTESY OF STEVEN BRAWLEY

figures of LGBT St. Louis, from the 1800s to the 2010s. The places are the locations in St. Louis which have been important culturally for LGBT folks, such as queer-friendly clubs and bars and neighborhoods such as Lafayette Square which were renovated by a large number of LGBT citizens.

Milestones are just those, from the celebrated (the first St. Louis Pride event) to the infamous (the passing of the 1816 anti-sodomy laws). Groups

range from leather men biker groups to feminist small presses. Lastly, everyday life celebrates the small, average events of St. Louis’ LGBT population, and the gathering of marginalized peoples in safe places without being political.

“Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” shows the LGBT world of St. Louis in all of its aspects. There are the good things—the political progress, the cultural celebrations, the city-wide pride—and the bad things—the sodomy laws, the AIDS/

HIV deaths, the murder at the Southern Hotel. It presents a fuller, truer image of local history, and avoids any semblance of whitewashing history in order to blindly celebrate queer history.

The bulk of the book is photography, but the combination of photography and the researched deep captions for each one creates a vivid and deep panorama of a marginalized group that has become an essential part of St. Louis, culturally and politically. What is seen through the work of Brawley and his colleagues are the people who have made St. Louis as queer-friendly and accepting as it is. Readers can trace how the narratives of their lives have moved from the margins of life into the center, gaining acceptance from the mainstream and giving younger LGBT people an easier time of being open with their sexual/gender orientation. It is thrilling in a way to see how many notable LGBT people have hailed from St. Louis, as well as how many landmark locations in St. Louis have played a role in local LGBT history, good and bad.

In a time when LGBT rights are accelerating and LGBT folks are taking more places on the national stage, “Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” seems like required reading to understand how the fight for acceptance has been a local affair for over two hundred years.

Litmag Launch Showcases Literary and Artistic Talent

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The rainbow-splashed cover and the multitude of student works inside *Litmag* 2016 graced the hands of many at the magazine's annual launch party on April 29. The party was held in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center from 5 to 7 p.m. About 50 people attended and were able to get their hands on a copy of the latest magazine, which is run by students and accepts creative works from University of Missouri—St. Louis students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Litmag's launch party featured live readings from several authors and artists. Best Poetry and Prose Submission contest winners and Wednesday Club winners were honored and recited some of their works. Ron Austin, an UMSL alumnus of the MFA program and professional writer, was the keynote speaker and recited one of his newer stories called "From the Dirt."

Zachary J. Lee, junior, English, was the recipient of the Best Poetry award for his poem "The Storm." The Best Prose award went to *Litmag* production staff member Amber Scholl, senior, English, for her story "Secrets of Eden." Each received a certificate and \$100 award from the English Department.

Kate Watt, lecturer in the English Department, has been the faculty advisor for *Litmag* since 2013. She gave remarks onstage about the publication process of *Litmag*, the work the staff put into producing the magazine, and the generosity of the student organizations and faculty members who made this year's *Litmag* possible. She thanked, in particular, the English Department, the MFA program, Frank Grady, Chair of the English Department, Steve Schreiner, MFA Program Director, the Graduate Writers Association, which co-sponsored the magazine's production this year, and the UMSL Writers Group, who specifically co-sponsored the launch party.

Noting that they received more than 200 submissions across campus, Watt said, "And so it made our job very difficult because unfortunately we received more submissions than we ultimately had pages to print. And though it was sad for us to have to pass on some of the pieces that were submitted that really were of high quality, it only shows that the talent here on campus is alive and well."

Watt also called the *Litmag* staff committee onstage to be recognized for their work in the publication process. Chairpersons and members of the advertising, public relations, publishing, and production committees gave remarks about their individual committees and what it was like to be part of the staff.

"We got to really get to know all of the pieces," said Megg Roth, senior, English, who was on the publishing



committee. "We went through word by word just to make sure that the voice was able to be established and make the pieces just the best pieces they could possibly be. We loved every minute of it... It was a really rewarding task to get to see these pieces published after all their hard work between us and the authors..."

The 2016 edition of *Litmag* contains the works of 20 different authors. The cover art was designed by this year's Best Art Submission contest winner Grace Gogarty, senior, educational studies. Titled "Burger of Life," it shows a rainbow hamburger that is chockfull of colorful fruit, bubbles, flowers, seashells, and more.

Litmag primarily receives submissions from undergraduate students, although works are welcomed from

graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Poetry, prose of all genres, and artwork are accepted. There is a limit of five submissions for each one of those categories, but students can submit in all categories. The submission period is open from October 15 to around the end of February, so there is a six-month stretch where students can submit works. Guidelines for submitting to the magazine are posted on the English Department website.

"It's great for students who are in the English Department or who are taking creative writing classes, but by no means is it restricted to those students," said Watt.

As submissions are collected, the *Litmag* staff comes together in the spring for the English Department's course offering, Editing *Litmag*. The

course essentially works as an internship where students receive three credit hours to publicize the magazine, solicit students to submit, and raise funds.

Litmag is in part funded by the English Department and the MFA Program, but the staff raises additional funds by selling advertisements in the magazine and taking donations.

Watt said, "We're really pleased with the pieces that were submitted this year. There's some really top notch, high quality writing going on on this campus, so we were really thrilled to get the stuff we did."

Copies of *Litmag* will be available for free on the MSC bridge on May 2 from 10 to 4 p.m. There will then be available for pickup in the English office on the 4th floor of Lucas Hall.

URS Showcases Undergraduate Research

SARAH MYERS
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to selecting colleges, the availability of undergraduate research opportunities is often an important factor for those with graduate school in their future plans. The University of Missouri-St. Louis not only supports opportunities for undergraduate students to pursue their own research, but also has an annual conference for these students to present their research to professionals and students across the region.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), sponsored by the Golden Key International Honour Society, took place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 29. According to Golden Key's mission statement, the conference is an opportunity for undergraduates of the Midwest to "present their research, scholarship, and creative works as they would at a professional conference."

The URS featured students from the fields of anthropology, biochemistry and biotechnology, biology, English, history, the humanities, music, physics, and psychology. Oral presentations were from 12 to 3 p.m. and poster presentations from 1 to 3 p.m.

The topics presented were diverse, ranging from aggressive behavior in chimpanzees, to bee reactions to floral complexity, to gender identity and female representation in STEM fields, to the effects of love on attention, to the elements found in comets.

Sage Rohrer, junior, biology, who presented on "Age and Sex Affect Infant Transfer in Captive colobus guereza," compared her experiences at the URS this year to last year: "I think it's a great opportunity. I actually did it last year and did an oral presentation, so it was nice to see the difference. I think, because of the audience, I like the poster presentation, but it's good to get experience speaking on the oral presentation. It's good preparation for graduate school."

Fellow student attendees came to support their friends or just to see their peers' work. "I think it's a great thing that UMSL provides. It allows people to show their aspirations and research," said Cleveon Holmes, senior, psychology. "I hope that UMSL continues to put on the research symposium and that more students will take part in future research."

Darionne Hardway, junior, psychology was also an attendee. "I wasn't

all the way sure what it was," he said. "I think it's pretty cool and it's interesting that it's all student research. I did not know this many undergraduates were doing research. It kind of makes me want to do research."

Nathan Jones, senior, biology, was also surprised to learn about the prevalence of undergraduate research at UMSL. "It's really interesting; I'm surprised I didn't come before. I think the level to the research has been done has surprised me." Jones presented the paper "Apes, Monkeys, Prosimians: What It's Like to Be a One-Year-Old."

Tasheia Floyd, graduate, behavioral neuroscience, said "I was really nervous at first, but I'm really excited to be here. I'm really learning to explain and 'talk' research, which I've never done before. Next year I get to be here to help others at the URS and I will get to mentor others too." Floyd presented on the association of rumination in people with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Afterward, a ceremony was held to award four first place prizes and four honorable mentions to students based on their content and presentation.

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com

Coach Andy Meade Reflects on Roller Hockey Season

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Ranked fifth in the nation, the University of Missouri—St. Louis roller hockey team had their season come to an end on April 8 when they lost in the Elite 8 in overtime to Michigan State with a final score of 5-6. Open tryouts for next year's roller hockey team will begin a few weeks after the start of the fall 2016 semester.

In the meantime, *The Current* reached out to UMSL roller hockey coach Andy Meade to find out his thoughts on how the team fared this season, what he and the players accomplished, and what his vision is for the team next year.

The Current (TC): How did it feel for the team to be ranked fifth in the nation?

Meade: Coach Holzum and I have had our ups and downs, but regardless we stuck through it and this is by far the most talented team we've coached. [The team is] awesome [and has] been the most tight-knit, and I truly believe that helps on the rink as well.

TC: What were your biggest personal accomplishments this season as a coach and what do you hope to accomplish next year?

Meade: We beat Lindenwood early in the season; LU is a school who recruits kids from all over the country so for our team to pull together and upset a school like that is a major accomplishment. Next year, as with any year, I'd



Hayden Crocker

COURTESY OF AUGUST JENNEWINE

like to win a Division 1 title; I never strive for anything other than that.

TC: What was the most important lesson you learned this season?

Meade: Nothing specific, but one thing I can say I've learned through the years is the patience we as coaches have to have with the guys; it's easier said than done sometimes.

TC: I know you previously said you're an UMSL alumnus. What made you decide to stay and keep coaching roller hockey?

Meade: Both Coach Jason Hol-

zum and I picked UMSL based on their hockey club, which at one point was very large hosting two teams. We have since graduated but we still had the hunger to keep the club alive and growing. As mentioned earlier, we've definitely had our down years, and I contribute some of that to the lack of exposure as well as the funding. We receive \$0 in support from UMSL, so it's hard to not only find kids to participate but then tell those kids they must pay to play. We offset it a lot by fundraising. But for kids paying fees to a school

strictly for club activities and then not getting anything in return once they participate in those said activities is mind-boggling.

TC: Do you have any particularly memorable or funny stories that happened this season or in past seasons?

Meade: This year, like I said, we had a very tight-knit team; everyone seemed to be friends on and off the rink, which isn't always the case. But Coach Holzum hosted an end of the year BBQ for the entire team, and that was a first in our six years of coaching and definitely something I won't forget.

TC: I heard that the team was trying to raise enough money to go to nationals. Were you able to meet that goal?

Meade: We did indeed—for the past two years we've been throwing a trivia night which has grown in the two short years we've done it, but this year we hope to make it the biggest one yet!

TC: What's one thing that most people don't know about roller hockey that you think they should know?

Meade: Just give it a try; in the past six years we've coached we haven't cut a single player, we have a wide range of talent from beginner to some of the best in the sport at the collegiate level, we host an open tryout where it's FREE for all UMSL undergrads as well as graduate students, and if anyone has any questions I'm more than happy to answer them. You can contact me via email at awmgf4@mail.ums.edu.

UMSL Sports Have Stepped it Up a Notch

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

For the University of Missouri—St. Louis, the 2015-2016 year has been one crazy ride for Triton athletes, with so many of the various teams doing better than ever before. While championship caliber teams are nothing new to the school, the athletics programs have certainly gone above and beyond this year, performing on a collective level not seen at UMSL in a long time. From golf, tennis, soccer, and even roller hockey, to all the other sports, our Triton athletes have been nothing short of impressive and have represented our university well.

It started in the fall semester with the women's soccer team, who had one of their best showings in several decades. After finishing the regular season with a 12-5-4 record, they headed into the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) postseason tournament hungry for more. The Triton women would take down Drury and Bellarmine en route to their second place finish in the conference tourney.


They would then do something

women's soccer had not done for UMSL since 1983—take place in the NCAA Division II Women's National Championship. Though they exited the tournament with an early first-round loss to Quincy, the accomplishment of even getting to that point was something the women were extremely proud of and happy about.

UMSL swimming would also be present at the 2016 NCAA Division II Championships in March, sending Diogo Dias, sophomore, undeclared, to Indianapolis for the competition. He placed 26th out of 34 finishers in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 49.62. He also placed 19th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 49.55, just missing his chance in the consolation finals.

Both the men and women's golf teams also played extremely well throughout the 2015-2016 season. The men's team won its fifth tournament of the season with its back-to-back first place showing at the GLVC postseason tournament, defeating Indianapolis in the championship finals.

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Travel Report: “I’m never going back to America!” and Other Things You Shout After the Kakehashi Program

ABBY N. VIRIO
STAFF WRITER

On March 14 at 8 a.m., 25 strangers and acquaintances wheeled baggage up to counter in Lambert International Airport and checked bags for O’Hare International Airport. It was to be an hour from St. Louis to Chicago, and a minimum of twelve hours from Chicago to Narita Airport in Chiba, Japan—an hour bus ride from downtown Tokyo. For those who had never flown or left the country, this was the maiden voyage of the Santa Maria—maps and strategically organized necessities tucked away in multi-pocketed carry-ons, fresh with department store smell. For the more weathered travelers, the flight was a sweaty, stinky nuisance made bearable by thoughts of the delicious food and adventure awaiting them in Japan. For all gathered around the gate, it was about to be a nine-day journey into a faraway land famous for its beauty, cuisine, and technology, with little to know for sure and much to imagine.

The Kakehashi Program is the American branch of an international friendship program developed by the Japanese International Cooperation Center (JICE) with the goal of fostering mutual understanding and interest between our two nations.

The University of Missouri—St. Louis began its selection process for a team of student delegates for the Kakehashi Program in the fall of 2015. After a highly competitive essay and interview process, 23 students and 2 faculty members were invited to represent both the university and the United States as a team of student delegates. This group of students of varying majors and minors



UMSL's Kakehashi Team

ABBY N. VIRIO/THE CURRENT

set out to explore Japan and answer questions as urgent as “how do I use this toilet?” and as complex as “how do the U.S. and Japan influence each other politically and economically?” The result was a dynamic team of students with diverse academic and cultural backgrounds who were able to ask thought-provoking questions and make powerful observations to share in Japan and bring back home.

By the time we arrived in the land of the rising sun, it was nearly sunset. We had crossed the international dateline and lost not only more than thirteen hours, but also an entire day. Jet-lagged and confusedly staring at our calendars, we hit the hay at the East 21 Hotel in Tokyo. Our gracious hosts met us with room keys and bento boxes. Bento, an icon of Japanese cuisine, was to be our first meal. A box with many

elaborately prepared morsels, our bento featured fish tempura, cooked seaweed, rice balls, pickled mushrooms and vegetables, a thick wedge of omelet, and tiny, brightly colored fishcakes.

Throughout the trip, my motto—put it in your mouth and ask questions later—served me well. I was welcomed with tonkotsu, a battered, crispy pork served on raw cabbage; sukiyaki, thinly sliced meat and vegetables cooked in a bubbling soy sauce mixture on the table and dipped in raw egg; shabu shabu, similar to sukiyaki but served with a boiling pot of seaweed water; Hamburg steak, tender, juicy hamburger prepared in steak sauce and served with an egg instead of a bun; takoyaki, squid balls fried in a crisp pancake batter and served with Japanese mayonnaise; okonomiyaki, a Japanese pancake filled with vegetables; and curry, mild Japa-

nese curry sauce with vegetables served over rice. Sticky white rice and tofu miso soup were a staple, as well as udon noodles, matcha tea, and fishcakes, such as naruto. Some students were able to try conveyor belt sushi, Japanese Krispy Kreme, and traditional drinks such as hot sake. Most memorably, I was able to experience famous Hakata tonkotsu ramen, a pork and green onion ramen served in the Fukuoka area.

After orientation, we attended informative lectures. Hideki Yamaji of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke to us about the history of international relations between the U.S. and Japan, specifically Japan’s attitudes towards the American military, which exerts a palpable presence to this day. We also heard from Akira Nakamura, PhD. of

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com

Campus Politics: Why Students Suppress Discourse

SARAH MYERS
STAFF WRITER

When conservative journalist Milo Yiannopoulos visited The University of Massachusetts and American University in Washington D.C. in late April, the ensuing protests and general outcry struck a familiar chord. Mobs of students chanted, shouted, cursed, and vandalized their way into the spotlight, attempting to shut down Yiannopoulos’ events, or at least to assure his voice would not be heard. These behaviors are not new, and no longer surprising. Anyone following the news at all this past year has most likely noticed a recurring theme among the headlines about today’s college campuses. News and debate surrounding political correctness, free speech, and student protests have polarized the liberal and conservative populations, and—in some extreme cases—even led to violent confrontation.

Especially surprising are the parties

involved and the spaces in which they occur. In most (if not all) recent cases, aggressive or violent displays of contempt for political ideologies, opinions, or parties has come from the political left—a left that has, historically, been vocal in its support of free speech and its condemnation of forceful suppression of dissenting opinion. Further, universities have been a hotbed of such clashes, despite the fact that this challenges the duty of the university in the first place—to foster the critique of intellectual ideas in a civil, nonviolent manner and realize disagreements and differences.

Unfortunately, in an effort to make sense of these trends, we too often resort to name-calling and blame placing, ignoring the fact that social behavior follows discernable, structural patterns. While it makes for fun insult, calling our college activists “cry-babies” or the like fails to shed any light on how to address the issues. Further, by attack-

ing the people involved, we do little to actually change behavior. There has been much critique on the beliefs held by individuals, but not enough on how these beliefs, in relation to larger forces, relate to action.

Clashes of ideology almost always result in authoritarian tactics. For a group to have authority, there must necessarily be an opposing group over which to force compliance, whether voluntary or coercive. Take the Black Lives Matter group and those who have adopted its principles and practices: these individuals have frequently used coercive power to establish authority on college campuses. Oberlin College in Ohio and our own flagship campus, Mizzou, are powerful examples of coercive authority at play. At both colleges, students wrote a list of demands whose refusal to be met would result in action against administrators or the university as a whole. Student demands have resulted in the firing of administrators,

the censorship of publications, and the redistribution of money towards specific interest groups. Such coercive power plays have created an authoritarian atmosphere under which individuals are permitted to resort to coercion in the name of the accepted ideology, withdrawing their behavioral restraints in the name of the accepted values of the group.

Why is it important to understand our current political conflicts in this way? By not viewing these matters through an objective lens, political parties and ideological factions—whether left or right-leaning—can excuse their actions on the basis of privilege, opinion, and of course, political correctness. These sorts of things do not resolve themselves without critical self-assessment and ensuing change. Quite simply, unless we understand what is really going on, we might as well just sit back and watch until things get progressively worse.

UMSL Dance Department's 'Last Farewell' at Touhill

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 8

"Imagine you, imagine me, imagine we, intertwining colors into a masterpiece."

The next piece was titled "Be Grateful" and featured a music score of the same title. Michelle Hughes, sophomore, theatre and dance, Lalitha Jilakara, Elizabeth Moushey, senior, theatre and dance, Railey, and Wade performed in blue and white dresses.

"Rhyme" was the next piece, set to classical dance music. Both the choreographer and dancer was Qianling Ye, senior, theatre and dance, who floated around the stage with quick, flexible movements in pink silk.

"In the Midst of It All" was next, set to "They Fought as Legends" and featured an exciting performance by dancers Hughes, Moushey, and Wade, all clad in orange, yellow, and blue costumes.

During a brief intermission, Mitchell, who moved to St. Louis in July from Miami, mourned the elimination of the dance program. He reacted to an article for which he was interviewed that appeared in the *Riverfront Times*, which he said claimed that most people only do dance as a hobby; Mitchell refuted the



Curtain drawn at the end of 'Be Grateful'

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

idea that dance was merely a hobby. He concluded by thanking all of the people who supported the dance department.

The final piece, "The Last Farewell," began with a video which showed the dancers practicing, and then featured the dancers in a wildly varying, yet

emotive, performance. When asked about the piece, Wade said, "Basically [it was] talking about the journey that Mr. Mitchell had from when he came into the department until now ... The one focal point was Charis. She was basically representing him and how we

were there for him ... It was basically an emotional roller coaster."

The piece did seem to strike a chord with the audience. "I liked the last piece the best. It was the most fun," said Abby Friodel, freshman, math.



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